

Give a Crushing Defeat to the Congress(R) at the Coming Poll

Elections to the Legislative Assemblies in most of the states in India are going to be held in the first half of March next. In the last general election held in 1967 the toiling masses of our country, being cruelly suppressed under Congress misrule over two decades and suffering untold hardship and poverty, pulled down the Congress from the seat of administration in different states and helped the non-Congress political parties to instal their governments there.

Particularly in the States of West Bengal and Kerala, however, left democratic government on the basis of united front of left and democratic parties came into being which was to help the growth and development of legitimate democratic mass movements against the exploitation perpetrated by the Congress regime and the reactionary circle for fulfilling the democratic demands of all sections of the toiling people. But owing to some serious shortcomings of the mass movements, the political bankruptcy of the big left parties and left-sectarian policies pursued by some of them the opportunities which appeared before us to intensify the legitimate democratic movement against the exploiting class on a firm footing, on a far bigger scale than before and to project the only alternative of a left democratic front against the Congress (R) at the national level before the toiling broad masses of the people could not be availed of.

Biplab Sen

It is because of these factors of political bankruptcy of the big left parties and left-opportunist disruptive politics which destroyed the cohesion of the last UF that the Congress (R) which was virtually extinct in many states, specially in West-Bengal and Kerala, was not only given a fresh scope to revitalise itself but also

opportunities to firmly entrench its position in the Parliament by gaining an absolute majority in the last election and in the different State Assemblies as well.

In the light of the statement of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the leader, teacher and the General Secretary of our Party, issued just after the declaration of results of the last Kerala Assembly poll, it can be said that on the one hand, when the Indira Congress, representative of the aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism, was trying to pass the same old Congress as progressive under the facade of so-called radicalism, and when it was the bounden duty of all the left and democratic forces in general and the big left parties in particular to tear off the progressive cloak of Indira Gandhi and help the people to see the real face of it, they on the contrary, by their various deeds and utterances, actually helped the Indira Congress to have a progressive image to the common men of our country and gain popularity and on the other hand, the left opportunistic policies pursued within the UF had destroyed the Democratic Fronts in Kerala and West Bengal and thereby created political vacuum in the states, advantages of which had been taken by the Congress (R). These two had been instrumental in reviving

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ATROCITIES GALORE Brazen Attack on SUC Workers by Congress (R)-Jotedar-Police Clique

(By a Staff Reporter)

With the Assembly elections only a few weeks ahead, the intensity and extent of attacks on anti-Congress Left and democratic parties by the Congress(R)-police-jotedar clique have increased severalfolds resulting in almost complete absence of normal democratic atmosphere in West Bengal.

To what extent the reign of terror by the police-jotedar-Congress(R) gangsters in West Bengal has crippled the normal democratic life can be gauged from the following incidents which are but a few of the innumerable instances of attacks on workers of SUC and other Left parties in the State.

Com. Brojagopal Saha, a well known SUC leader of Birbhum and Commissioner, Suri Municipality was arrested on January 26, when he went to Suri police station on some business. On receipt of the news when Com. Protiva Mukherjee, Secretary, Birbhum District, SUCI, contacted the DSP, the latter told her that Com. Saha was held in connection with an old case of 1969. When asked why then he had not been held all these days though Com. Saha had been to the

Thana on many occasions, the DSP fumbled and then replied that Com. Saha had been arrested on a recent warrant of arrest. However, later the charge made against Com. Saha came out to be on the basis of an old, false case of 1969.

Warrants of arrest have been issued against many other SUC leaders and organisers in Suri on similar false charges.

During the past few months, scores of SUC workers have been detained or arrested in Suri and other areas of Birbhum where the SUC is the main political opponent of the Ruling Congress.

Only a few days back several jotedars along with local Congress(R) goondas beat up a poor peasant in Kariddhya Anchal when the

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Cong.(R) Posing as the Greatest Danger Before Left Mass Movement

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the Congress(R) from its position of virtual extinction in Kerala.

Danger of fascism through the Congress (R)

Now the Congress(R) is not only contesting in the ensuing elections with a considerably enhanced strength but also, in addition to it, a particular feature has become quite apparent within the Congress(R). Till now, what was apprehended that the Congress(R) represented the potential fascist force and its social democratic measures like bank nationalisation, abolition of privy purses etc. only strengthened the economic foundation of fascism, has become real now with the Congress (R) posing as the greatest danger before the left democratic mass movements and out to crush all the left parties and democratic forces opposed to it. On the one hand the Congress(R) by virtue of its absolute power both at the Centre and in many of the states and having succeeded in its attempt to project a so-called progressive image of it before the people, with the big left parties contributing much to this bid of the Congress(R), is now employing the fascistic methods and all sorts of deplorable tactics to crush the legitimate movements of the toiling people and on the other hand, due to the existing state of disunity among the left and democratic parties, such increasing offensive of the Congress (R) on the common people cannot be effectively countered. This danger from the side of the Congress (R) is even more ominous since owing to the absence of such an united front of left and democratic parties, the vast unorganised masses of the people who can only be freed from the influence of the Congress (R) through conduction of day-to-day struggles on democratic demands organised under a

common instrument of mass struggle in the shape of an United Front, are now left open before the growing onslaught of the Congress(R) and also falling victim to their progressive gimmicks, thus helping the potential fascist force to firmly entrench itself in our soil. In such a prevailing condition, if the Congress (R), the most accredited representative of the Indian monopoly capitalists has to be resisted in its attempt to establish full-fledged fascism in our country, then the most crucial task before all the left and democratic parties functioning here is to forge an united front designed to carry out and consolidate the democratic struggles of the toiling people against the reactionary vested class without any further loss of time. It is with this aim in view that our Party since long has been conducting bi-partite and tri-partite talks with other left and democratic parties in West Bengal and in some other states as well, to materialise such a front to emerge to counter this menace of fascism.

SUC's Proposal for a Left Democratic Front

As the situation now stands, it is well known that the CPI has conclusively gone in favour of the Congress (R) and is building up alliance with it to face the ensuing elections jointly. So it is with the remaining left and democratic parties willing to fight the Congress (R) that our Party proposes to develop an united front and the West Bengal State Committee of our Party at an extended meeting, held in Calcutta from 16th to 18th January last has accepted a proposal to this effect wherein it is stated that "the Party would try to build up such a front with only those parties that would agree on the following basic questions, namely—(1) political necessity

of forging and conducting united democratic mass movements against all reactionary and communal parties including the Congress (R); (2) necessity of adopting a code of conduct for the constituents of the united front and evolving democratic norms of behaviour; (3) necessity of adopting effective steps to remove the causes that led to the breakdown of the last united front and collapse of united democratic movements in the State; (4) public declaration guaranteeing full freedom to carry on ideological struggles by the constituent parties of the front without of course weakening the unity of the front and united movements against the common enemy of the front; (5) stoppage of the politics of terror, physical intimidation, violent attacks on political opponents and their supporters, (6) necessity of restoring administrative neutrality by taking effective steps to stop the use of administration and police for narrow, petty party interests. The questions should be decided unanimously by the parties agreeable to form the united left democratic front."

Reign of terror in West Bengal

In West Bengal and also in the other states the Congress(R), designed to serve the interests of the monopolists and other vested sections of the people, is taking the help of the notorious anti-social elements and in league with the administration particularly the police administration in different localities, is mounting increasing attack on the democratic masses of the people and organisations so as to suppress the legitimate democratic mass movements against the reactionary circle. On the one hand the Congress (R), just after occupying the office of the Government and in exercise of its power of brute majority in the Parliament,

has imposed further intolerable burden of taxation on the common people, in utter disregard to its election promises of 'garibi hatao' and on the other hand, using the black Acts like MISA, PVAA, etc. is trying to muzzle the voice of democratic opposition against any unpopular policy or scheme of the Government. Particularly in the State of West Bengal, the Congress(R), by resorting to threat, intimidation, indiscriminate arrest of peasant workers and supporters of SUC and other left and democratic parties, instituting warrants of arrests on false and fabricated charges against several thousand workers and supporters of opponent political parties specially the left parties in the State, creating 'liberated pockets' of Congress (R) by forcing the members of other parties to leave their hearth and home, and by open gangsterism, mass killing and mass-terror and adopting all other means of fascistic tactics, has succeeded in creating a reign of terror and abolishing the democratic atmosphere altogether in the State. All these methods the Congress(R) is employing with a heinous motive to make it impossible to hold a free and fair election, compel the opponent political parties contesting them not to move or do their election work freely and even to prevent them to jointly counter this threat posed by the Congress(R), by harassing and terrorising their workers and pushing them out of their localities. How deeply the 'votaries of democracy' pay regard to their profession can very well be guessed by the way the Congress(R)-led student wing is fighting the Student Union elections in different colleges in the State. Everywhere there is the familiar pattern of engaging the known hoodlums to intimidate the leaders and workers of other student organisations at their homes threatening them with dire consequences if they refuse to cast their votes according to the formers' choice, and of

Sordid Attempts of Cong.(R) to Revive Its 'Progressive' Image

forcing the nominees of other organisations to withdraw their candidature from the elections, besides casting of large numbers of false votes and posting its armed gangster regiment at the college gate sometimes even with the connivance of the college authorities and the local police. Such are the tactics the Congress (R)-led Chhatra Parishad have adopted everywhere without any single exception. Such is the way to their victory, a way to trample down ruthlessly the last remnants of democracy. It is not hard to conceive that the same way and tactics will be adopted and is being adopted on a far larger scale by the Congress(R), violating all democratic norms and code of conduct and shamelessly using the administration under its control to further its narrow political end to assure its victory in the forthcoming elections.

A trump-card of Congress(R)

Apart from this, even in some other contexts, the Congress (R) is found to be behaving most undemocratically and resorting to unallayed lies only to carry on slanderous propaganda against its political opponents.

In respect of Bangladesh freedom struggle all the freedom-loving democratic-minded people of our country along with all the political parties have rendered unequivocal support to the freedom struggle and heartily wished its complete victory. It was rather the Congress(R) which all along vacillated, refrained from giving immediate recognition to the independent Republic of Bangladesh as demanded by all sections of the Indian people and the opposition parties, and often expressed its desire for a political settlement on Bangladesh issue even within the framework of the then Pakistan, thus flouting the

massive mandate of our people and the explicit will of Bangladesh freedom fighters for complete freedom from the colonial yoke of the Pakistani military rulers. Had the Congress(R) Government recognised the Bangladesh Republic at the very outset and stopped its wavering attitude right then, then the genocide and mass brutality which followed immediately due to the systematic mass-annihilation measures adopted by the barbaric military regime of Yahya and consequent huge exodus of refugees to the Indian territory could have been kept low.

But suppressing all these facts the Congress(R) is trying to pose that it alone supported the freedom struggle in Bangladesh and is usurping all the credit for the success of the struggle there to itself.

Long ago our Party had stated that the Congress (R) which had so long denied the people of West Bengal the basic democratic right of exercising their franchise for electing a popular government and ending the President's Rule in the State, on so many pleas like influx of refugees, emergency situation, deteriorating condition of law and order etc. was actually biding time; as soon as the Bangladesh issue would be favourably settled, the Congress(R), brushing aside all its former logic for postponing election would declare an early poll, giving practically no time for the other contesting political parties to sufficiently prepare them for the election. Taking advantage of this unalertness on the part of other political parties who put some faith in the words of Sm. Indira Gandhi who declared even the other day that there could be no question of holding election at this critical moment, and by boosting its image to the people by shamelessly appropriating to itself all the credit for the success of Bangladesh

freedom struggle, the Congress (R) designs to score victories in the forthcoming elections to different state Assemblies. In reality, the false image of itself that the Congress (R) was able to project by befooling the electorate during the last Parliamentary elections by proffering many empty but sweet promises to the people like solving the acute unemployment problem, removing poverty and disparity in income, improving law and order situation etc. which paid rich dividends to the Congress (R), was rapidly sliding down as none of these promises were backed by any attempt whatsoever for fulfilling them. Rather the Congress (R), by utilising its brute majority in the Parliament has burdened the people with heavier taxes, without however, touching the pocket of the monopolists and promulgated many anti-people acts so as to further alienate the basic democratic rights of the people. Because of these factors, the Congress (R) despite its earlier success by way of raising some so-called progressive slogans was rapidly losing its position among the people. In a situation like this, our Party had correctly assessed that the Congress (R) would try to resuscitate its falling image before the people by grabbing the entire credit of Bangladesh freedom movement and utilise the same as its trump card to scale the election hurdle.

Two nature of support to Bangladesh struggle

A point to be considered in this connection is that there is a lot of difference existing between the nature and character of support spontaneously given by the common men of our country towards the freedom struggle of Bangladesh, and the support of the Congress (R), the best representative of Indian monopoly capitalism. As for example, even

though the Indian bourgeoisie participated in the anti-British imperialist independence movement in our country, its motive was basically different from the object of the struggle pursued by the broad masses of our people. What the Indian bourgeoisie wanted to achieve out of this freedom struggle was to secure its own unfettered right to exploit its own people by overthrowing the Britishers, establish its class rule and exercise its supremacy over the vast national market to suit its own class interests. But the common men of our country, the workers, the peasants, the middleclass, the students and the intelligentsia also fought for independence and laid down their lives not to establish another exploiting system but to achieve the people's liberation from all sorts of exploitation of man by man. Due to the absence of any genuine communist party in our country at that time, the leadership of the freedom struggle went into the hands of the Indian capitalist class and consequently through independence it was the Indian national bourgeoisie who captured the state power with the toiling people remaining exploited and enslaved as before. From the time of independence, the Congress and now the Congress (R) have been maintaining over two decades and a half, an unbroken record of exploitation and oppression of its own people to faithfully serve the interests of the Indian capitalist class and with renewed vigour it is increasing its offensive on the people on each passing day. The liberation of the Indian toiling masses has still to be achieved. Similarly on the issue of Bangladesh freedom struggle, although the Congress (R) the representative of the Indian monopolists, has extended its support along with the common people of our country, still we cannot

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POLICE-JOTEDAR-CONGRESS(R)'S BRIGANDRY

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latter demanded his share of crop according to law. He is lying in a precarious condition in hospital. The police however, instead of arresting the culprits, is arresting the SUC supporters named by those jotedars.

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the S.U.C.I. contacted the Inspector General of Police in this regard whereupon the I.G. assured him to look into the matter.

One Woman Raped By 6 Policemen

On the night of January 11, a police party from Panuria camp led by the camp officer raided Bhurkuna village under Suri PS in Birbhum district of West Bengal. They surrounded the Bagdipara—a locality inhabited by Bagdis, one of the most downtrodden strata of people—and rounded up several male members including local SUC organiser Comrade Haru Bagdi.

While some of these men were being taken to the camp another group of police men entered the house of Ganesh Bagdi, one of the arrested peasants. It will not be out of place to mention here that Police had no charge against Ganesh Bagdi. One of them tied up Subhadra, the 16-year-old wife of Ganesh and another police man ravaged her chastity.

Another group of police men entered the house of 18-year-old Saraswati Bagdini—whose husband was also among these arrested and there was no case against him with the police. Saraswati took shelter in an adjacent room in fear. The beasts dragged her out and then six 'custodians of law and order' one after another brutally raped that girl and left her unconscious.

Simultaneous raids were also made by

other policemen on the houses of Com. Haru Bagdi and Dhaju Bagdi whose wives somehow managed to escape by fleeing to a neighbouring area. SUC leaders Comrade Prativa Mukherjee and Comrade Brajogopal Saha, along with these poor peasant women, made a representation to the Police Super and the DM and demanded immediate punishment of the criminals. But not a single culprit has been punished as yet.

Repression Goes On Unabated

On December 31, 1971, Police at the instance of the local jotedars arrested Comrades Sukho Das, Ratai Bagdi and Banchha Das, of Koma village under Suri P.S., all members of Krishak & Khet Majoor Federation (K&KMF).

Some bargadars of Amairpur and Kalipur village under Karidhya Anchal applied to the J. L. R. O. demanding due share according to the Amended Bargadar Act. The ADM and the SDO asked both the parties to stop harvesting unless the case was settled. But on January 26, 1972, the jotedars, violating this instruction, started harvesting without informing the bargadars. But when the bargadars, being informed came to the spot and protested against this illegal act, they were mercilessly beaten, thus four of the bargadars, Messrs Sakti Ankur, Bhakti Ankuri, Naresh Ankur, and Sanyashi Ankur were seriously wounded. Two of them are still recovering in the hospital. The police arrested all those wounded persons, all members of the K & KMF and instituted false cases against 15 members of the SUC, along with Comrades Subhas Sikdar and Shyamapada Pal, organisers of the SUC.

At Sikarpur (Bansanka Anchal under Suri P. S.) Bargadar Mitran Das and 11 other bargadars applied to the J.L.R.O. (on 31.12.71) for their due shares, which the jotedars refused to give. On Jan. 19 the J.L.R.O. and the B.D.O. (Suri II) went to the village and the J.L.R.O. asked the bargadars to take 60% and to give 40% to the owner. Though the due share was 75% still the bargadars accepted this proposal of the J.L.R.O. But the jotedar refused to allow the bargadars to harvest and went to police. On Jan. 26 a Police Officer from Bansanka camp went to the village, arrested Nabin Das, (a school student) son of Mitran Das. The boy was beaten so mercilessly that he had to be sent to Suri hospital. On the same night, police arrested Messrs Mitran Das, Sonai Das, Matilal Das, Jatan Das, Kalu Das, Madai Das, and Sankar Das, all members of the K & K. M. F. and issued warrants of arrest against Com. Rama Prosad Roy Chowdhury, a member of the Birbhum District Committee of the SUC, Com. Siddiq Ahmed, a local organiser of the SUC and five other members of the Party.

At Raotara, under Suri P.S., the local jotedars and the Congress(R) workers beat the sister and wife of some bargadars who are members of the K & K.M.F.

At Suri, the District town of Birbhum, the police led by the O.C. himself tore off the posters pasted by the SUC workers only revealing the true colour of the police.

ATTACK ON SUC, K & KMF IN BURDWAN

On Dec. 7, 1971, Com. Abal Ghosh of Sarpi village under Faridpur P. S. was arrested by the police from his house and was beaten mercilessly at the time of arrest and also inside the lock-up. On the same night, the O.C. of Faridpore P.S.

himself raided the village with a large contingent of CRP, surrounded the Ruidas Para, dragged out poor peasants from their huts and started beating them as also the women folk who protested against such inhuman action. The police then arrested Coms. Paresh Ruidas, Santi Majumdar, Sankar Mondal and Nrisingha Chatterjee and took them to the police station. The O. C. himself tortured them inside the lock-up and behaved so inhumanly as to commit nuisance on Com. Abal Ghosh's face and then asked him to "lick it up."

On December 21, at Faridpur police arrested Comrades Nidhiram Koyeli and Santi Samanta of Ichapore village on false charges.

On December 25, 1971, at Faridpur police arrested Dinabandhu Ruidas, the younger brother of Nanigopal and Rakhahari Ruidas in absence of his elders. The next day, when their father went to the police station he was also arrested.

On January 1, '72, a group of Congress(R) workers and goondas entered the house of Mitran Ruidas, dragged him and his son out of the house, beat them mercilessly and took them to the Police Station and asked the O.C. to arrest them. And the O.C. obliged them most obediently.

On January 4, '72, about 50 to 60 Congress(R) workers and anti-socials, all armed with lethal weapons, forcibly entered the SUC office in Sarpi, broke all the furniture, set fire to literatures and documents and also burnt down the party flag. On the same evening they raided Sarpi village, started beating Balaram and Ajit Ruidas, dragged them to the police station and asked the O.C. to arrest them. The O.C. immediately arrested them on false charges.

On January 5, nearly 100 to 150 Congress(R) workers and goondas entered Ichapore

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village and beat almost all the inhabitants of "Bauripara" irrespective of age or sex. But when the villagers went to the police station to submit a written memorandum, the O.C. himself tore that off.

On January 16, '72, a police party entered the party office in Faridpur and resorted to indiscriminate lathi-charge at the instances of local jotedars, and arrested Com. N. Ray and three others.

All these incidents have been reported to the S.D.O. Durgapore, but with no effect. Then, from SUC State Committee, a representation was made before the Home Secretary at Writers' Buildings, and the Home Secretary ordered an enquiry—but no steps have been taken as yet.

SUC OFFICE RANSACKED IN BANKURA

In similar way, a good number of SUC workers have been arrested from Meteli, Natoongram, Upsol, Kishnanagar, and some other villages all under Barjora P.S. in Bankura district.

On December 12, 1971, at dead of night, the O.C., Barjora P.S. with a truckload of CRP men surrounded the above-mentioned villages and arrested Comrades Kalo Adhikari, Tulshi Shyam, both SUC organisers and K & K.M.F. leaders, along with Paltu Shyam, Durga Sutradhar, Sri Pakhira and some others.

On January 16, 1972, a band of anti-socials, under the leadership of the local Congress (R) men ransacked the SUC Party office at Jhanti Pahari. They pulled down the Party signboard and broke it. Com. Amaresh Das, local SUC organiser, was also beaten by these anti-socials who fled with the arrival of local inhabitants. When Com. Amaresh Das went to lodge complaints with the D.M.,

the D.M. called for the Congress(R) leaders and after consultation with them, without any spot enquiry, framed up his mind and the aggrieved Com. Das was warned. This palpably shows how a D.M. behaved in a most partisan way.

REIGN OF TERROR IN 24 PARGANAS

As the general election is drawing near the Congress(R) workers are making more and more wild attacks on the SUC workers and organisers, who are going for election campaign to different villages. They are also terrorising the villagers whom they consider to be SUC supporters. A few such incidents are cited here from which one can catch a glimpse of the horrifying condition, the Congress(R) workers, with the backing of the police have created in different villages under Kultali Police Station area (24 Parganas).

On November 26 last, Com. Yakub Pailan, Secretary, 24-Parganas District SUCI along with Com. Sidheswar Shaw of Benodepur village went to Kishorimohanpur. On their way back, some Congress(R) workers forced them to go to the South Baikunthapur Congress office. There they were threatened with dire consequences and afterwards Com. Sidheswar Shaw was beaten severely by the Congress workers.

On January 8, when Com. Baul Mondal of Sonatikari went to the Maipith Hospital ground for poll campaign, some Congress(R) workers asked him to stop campaign for SUC and threatened him with severe consequences if he did not stop working for SUC in future.

On January 12, Com. Mondal was forcibly taken to local library conducted by the Congress (R) and was asked to leave either the SUC or the village.

On January 21, when some

SUC workers were propagating about a public meeting to be held on February 1, a group of Congress(R) workers and goondas suddenly attacked them. Com. Turjan Dolai and his nephew were beaten and were taken away by them. On the same day, the same Congress(R) workers and goondas forcibly entered into the local SUC office, pulled down the party flag, tore it, and trampled it underfoot.

On January 18, at 5 p.m. Com. Gopal Pradhan of Baikunthapur was forcibly taken to the local school. There a group of Congress(R) workers and goondas beat him mercilessly and then took him to the Baikunthapur South Khalmula Congress office. There also he was beaten severely and was forced to sign on some stamped papers. Throughout the whole night, he was detained there and on the following morning when some villagers went to rescue him, they were also forced to sign a bond. Com. Pradhan had to be treated for two days by the doctor of the local hospital; but as his condition was grave he was afterwards removed to Mathurapur Hospital. From Mathurapur Hospital, considering his precarious condition, he was removed to Bangur Hospital, Calcutta.

SUC Office Set on Fire at Batanagar

On Tuesday, 25.1. '72, a group of armed Youth Congress (R) workers, led by Kalyan Sen, Malay Chowdhury, Milon and Deb Kumar raided, broke open and ransacked the S.U.C. Office on Station Road, Batanagar and set fire to the furniture, portraits of national and international leaders, party organs and other office papers.

On the previous night, (Monday) several members of the Youth Congress (R) surrounded the house of local

S.U.C. organiser and threatened him with dire consequences, since the S.U.C. has initiated the proposal for an united left and democratic movement against the Congress (R).

Following this incident, on Tuesday morning several groups of armed Youth Congress (R) members raided different localities at Batanagar, hunting out the S.U.C. workers and supporters with a motive to eliminate them. For this purpose they raided the homes of Comrades B.B. Mukherjee, N. Sarker, S. Mazumder, B. Goswami, all workers of S.U.C.

It may also be mentioned here that for the last one month, on several occasions, armed workers of Youth Congress (R) threatened the S.U.C. workers engaged in wall posterings without any provocation whatsoever on the part of S.U.C. workers.

It may be mentioned that police, as usual, did not take action against the culprits, perpetrating criminal acts for a long time in Batanagar.

In order to crush the SUC organisations, the Youth Congress (R) members have taken recourse to violence against S.U.C. in Batanagar.

Com. Asutosh Banerjee Secretary, Calcutta District Committee of the SUCI has met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi at New Delhi, on Monday, the 31st January, to hand over a Note detailing the above incidents and urge upon her to take immediate steps for the restoration of the normal democratic atmosphere necessary for holding free and fair election in the State.

On the same date, Com. Nihar Mukherjee met the I.G. of Police, West Bengal at Writers' Building, Calcutta to apprise him of these incidents, demanding corrective steps to stop recurrence of these incidents any further, severe punishment for the guilty police officers and men involved with these incidents and immediate arrest of all anti-socials responsible for it.

Fantastic Logic of a Stable Government Made by Congress(R)

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exclude the possibility that the Indian monopolists who are very keen to expand their sphere of influence and find markets outside for financial investment may have the prepondering influence behind this support of the Congress (R). The express will of the Indian Business Houses which came out in the Press to open investment in Bangladesh is a pointer to this direction. But the support of the common people of our country had a distinctly different object in view. Their spontaneous support to the struggle underscored a genuine desire for the establishment of a completely free democratic secular state in Bangladesh, not only in the interests of Bangladesh people alone who want all-out development of their social life unfettered by any string from any quarter, but also in the interests of progressive democratic and revolutionary mass movements of our country as well. So to achieve this independence the toiling broad masses of India wanted to extend all possible help to the freedom fighters in a selfless way and kept themselves alert not to betray any hegemonistic attitude on their part which can mar the relation between the two peoples and create obstacle in the way of freest development of all aspects of social life in Bangladesh towards greater progress and prosperity

Real basis for growing friendship

In this connection, the Congress (R) is harping on another strange logic to carry the favour of our people. According to it, in the prevailing situation in Bangladesh, if the flow of all-out assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Bangladesh has to be continued unchecked and the mutual relation between the two countries established on a firm footing, then just as

the people have expressed their full confidence in the Congress (R) in the last Parliamentary poll by acceding to it a vast majority of seats, so also it should vote the Congress (R) to power even in the state Assemblies in the oncoming elections. If instead of the Congress (R), the non-Congress (R) political parties acquire the majority and run the state governments then it will simply invite enormous difficulties to meet the present critical situation and create obstacle in the process of firmly establishing the mutual relationship between the two countries. To any sensible person, it is quite apparent that there is hardly any substance behind this queer logic of the Congress (R). Such a healthy normal relationship on the basis of friendship, mutual assistance and respect for sovereignty and independence of the countries concerned can only be built up on the basis of unity of the democratically conscious and freedom-loving people of the two countries and creation of democratic atmosphere in the two regions. But is it not too wide to expect that the Congress (R) which is forcibly taking away all the hard-won democratic rights of the people one by one in its own country and has almost eliminated the democratic climate particularly in this bordering state of West Bengal, where practically a Police-raj at the instance of the Congress (R) exists, will pursue this only correct and scientific way for strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two peoples? Specially when the Congress (R) is wedded to the task of defending the interests of the Indian monopoly capitalists, is it not hard to believe that the Congress (R) can progressively develop our mutual tie with Bangladesh without causing any hurdle

in the way of its uninterrupted development towards a better future?

Cong (R)'s plea of stable Govt.—a hoax

Congress (R) is also wielding another propaganda-stick to win the election battle, that is, 'if you want to form a stable government then vote for the Congress(R) as the Congress (R) alone is in a position to establish a stable 'progressive' government in the states. Despite this claim of the Congress(R), backed by sheer physical force and the service of the Press, the actual experience, however, tells altogether a different story. Congress as well as the Congress(R) has formed governments earlier both at the Centre and in the states enjoying absolute majority in its favour. Why then those governments had to expire before their full term was completed? After dominating uninterruptedly as a single party over a period of two decades and more, both at the Centre as well as in the states, why the Congress and the Congress (R) following it failed to offer stable governments in the previous years? What lay at the root of unstable Governments in Bihar, U.P., Orissa, Punjab, Haryana etc. and even at the Centre before the last poll? Why the Congress was broken down into two? All these point out the one spectacular feature of the Congress and the Congress(R), that is, the groupism, petty squabbles, in-fighting for leadership, mutual bickerings and animosities within the party relating to anyhow to get hold of coveted positions in the ministries or seat nominations, innumerable cliques and coteries etc. which were rampant in it. Is it not this same feature which is sarfacing each day within the Congress (R) even now? In West Bengal, Bihar

Assam, Gujrat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and in all other states which are facing the forthcoming elections, does not the familiar pattern of group rivalries, formation of Ad-hoc Committees at different levels, ceaseless procession to the Congress High Command for settlement of claims and counter-claims in regard to election nominations etc. exhibit very clearly the same old groupism and power-politics which had ultimately disrupted the Congress? So, prior to election, if the internal dissensions within the Congress(R) could reach such a high magnitude solely on the issue of allotment of seats then even if it is granted that the Congress(R) will be able to form government through the elections, still then in the event of more accentuated form of groupism and squabbles within the Congress(R) which will inevitably follow in respect of getting ministerial portfolios, can the Congress(R) assure to run stable ministries in the states? Whatever the Congress(R) may proclaim, no sensible person can bear the notion that the Congress (R) is able to form a stable government. To speak of improvement of the law and order situation—we are already experiencing a measure of it in the meantime. On one side the Congress(R) by giving shelter to the notorious anti-social elements of all shades is creating a reign of terror in all the localities, in towns and villages, and on the other, by handing over extraordinary arbitrary power to the bureaucracy and the police administration it is digging the very grave of democracy in our country. Besides, even if the Congress (R), the most trusted representative of the Indian monopoly capitalists and other vested sections of the people, can maintain a stable

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FORGE UNITED LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN BIHAR

Com. Sankar Singh's Appeal

(By a Staff Reporter)

The Congress (R) Government at the Centre led by Mrs. Gandhi has, most shamelessly imposed President's Rule in Bihar, pushing the State to go to fresh polls for the State Assembly.

The timing and the manner of the imposition of President's rule unmistakably suggests that the Congress (R) is trying nakedly to cash in on the nation's victory in the Indo-Pak war—a national achievement for which everybody and all parties of our country contributed and not the Congress (R) alone.

Com. Sankar Singh, Secretary Bihar State Committee of the SUCI had in an appeal to all the left and democratic parties of Bihar including the CPI, the SP and the CPI (M) urged them to come forward and forge an anti-Congress united front to face the challenge posed by the Congress (R) which, under

radical cloak and with progressive gestures, is actually consolidating the aggregate interest of the Indian capitalist class.

The necessity of forging such a united front of all the left and democratic parties has become all the more imperative in the greater interest of promoting legitimate democratic mass movements on all common issues, Com. Singh added.

In paving the way to build up such an anti-Congress left and democratic front Com. Singh pledged the full cooperation of the SUCI with other parties in every step towards this direction.

Left Democratic Parties Must Unite Now

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government, then it will do so in the interest of defending the power of the capitalist class to exploit our people more ruthlessly, aggravating still further the acute poverty and distress of the toiling masses as witnessed now. So by giving verdict in favour of the Congress (R) and helping it to instal a stable government of this type, will the common toiling people of our country sacrifice its own interest, the interest of legitimate democratic movement against the exploiting class and its own struggle for liberation to be waged against the Congress (R) and other reactionaries ?

Lastly we think that the left democratic parties of our country must unitedly come

forward to foil these false propaganda of the Congress (R) and contain the real danger of fascism thus posed by the Congress(R) and most importantly, should spare no efforts not only to defeat the Congress(R) at the coming poll but also to carry on the united left democratic mass movement on an unprecedented scale even after the election. We also appeal to the broad masses of our country to give a crushing blow to all the mischievous propaganda and dark machinations of the Congress(R) and decisively to cast their votes in the oncoming elections in favour of the anti-Congress and anti-communal progressive left democratic parties for the installation of progressive left democratic governments in the different states.

SUC Demands One-Day Poll In Bihar

Com. Sankar Singh, Secretary, Bihar State Committee of the SUCI has issued the following statement to the Press :

"The decision of the Election Commission to hold elections in Bihar in four days between 5th to 11th March is a most deplorable one. We consider that if the Election Commission really means to have a fair election then it must revise its present decision and decide to hold elections in the whole State of Bihar in one day, so that the anti-social forces may not have the opportunity to move from one constituency to another and disturb the process of fair election.

"We demand that in the interest of fair election 'Emergency' should be withdrawn and all political and Trade Union workers who are put behind bars under various black laws must be immediately released.

"We also demand that the Election Commission must make necessary arrangements to ensure that the Harijans and other weaker sections of the society may exercise their right of franchise without any obstruction."

Anti-Unemployment Day Observed in Different States

(By a Staff Reporter)

Rourkela Jan. 26 :

17th Jan. 72 was observed as a day against unemployment and retrenchment at different places of Sundargarh and Sambalpur by U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) Orissa Branch.

To observe the day posters, leafletings were made, at Rourkela, Rajgangpur, Lathikata and Jharsugada.

There was a big mass meeting at Rajgangpur under the presidentship of Com. L. N. Baitharu, Jt. Secretary Orissa Comen Workers Union. Com. S. Quasim, the main speaker, demanded before the State Government and the Central Government to provide with unemployment allowance until the problem could be solved. He also demanded reopening of all closed Industries.

The anti-labour policy of the O.C.L. was also criticised at the meeting.

Gate meetings at Rourkela Steel Plant

Gate meetings were held at the Steel Plant Rourkela,

before the employment office and bus stand. All the gate meetings were attended by large number of people from all walks of life. There was a well attended meeting at the main gate under the presidentship of youth leader Com. S.P. Mahanty. Com. B. Jena, General Secretary, Orissa State Committee, U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) was the main speaker. In his speech, Com. Jena pointed out that so long capitalism was there the basic cause of unemployment and retrenchment could not be removed. Permanent solution of this problem could be possible only by overthrowing the capitalist system and its state structure under the leadership of a real working class party, he said.

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Central Convention Against Unemployment and Retrenchment

Under the auspices of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) workers and employees in factories and offices, unemployed and under-employed peasants and agricultural labourers, youths and students all over West Bengal observed Anti-Unemployment Anti-Retrenchment Day on January 17 last.

Workers and peasants observed the Day with meetings and processions in 24 Parganas and Birbhum districts. At Berhampur and Jangipur in Murshidabad district and Adra and Santhaldih in Purulia district thousands of workers, employees and unemployed youths held rallies, demonstrations and meetings.

A central delegates convention attended by several hundred delegates was held at Muslim Institute in Calcutta on this occasion. The convention was presided over by Com. Moni Chatterjee, Vice-President,

Calcutta Corporation Clerks' Union. The main resolution was moved by Com. Sankar Saha. The resolution was supported by Com. Tapas Dutta, General Secretary, Rourkela Workers Union and one of the Secretaries of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani). Comrades Amal Kar Gupta, Samiran Mitra, Bikash Bakshi addressed the gathering on behalf of different unions.

In his concluding speech at the convention, Com. Fatik Ghosh, Secretary UTUC (Lenin Sarani) explained before the delegates the significance of the Day and outlined the future course of movement.

ANTI-UNEMPLOYMENT RALLY, DHANBAD

Dhanbad, Jan. 25: In response to the call of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Central Committee, the Dhanbad, District UTUC observed January 17, 1972, as a day against unemployment and retrenchment and organised a massive rally of 2000 workers, jobless youths, students and landless peasants at Dhanbad on the same day.

The procession, decorated with hundreds of Red flags and festoons of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and unions affiliated to it paraded through the main streets of Dhanbad.

Com. Pritish Chanda and Com. Hem Chakraborty, Secretary and members respectively of the Working Committee, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) handed over copies of

a memorandum to the assistants of the Divisional Commissioner and the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad in absence of the DC and the RLC.

Several other meetings on the occasion were held including two large mass meetings at Sijua and Jealgora. Both these meetings were presided over by Com. Hem Chakraborty.

MAMMOTH RALLY IN MARHAWRAH

Thousands of people from all walks of life—peasants, workers, agricultural labourers, students, youths, intelligentsia participated in the mass meeting held here on Monday, the 17th January, 1972 at 3.30 P. M. at the local temple ground of Harbar Nath.

Com. Amar Kumar Pandey presided in the meeting. The speakers including Com. Pandey dealt at length with the problems of unemployment and retrenchment and their concomitant evil, rising prices of essential commodities etc. The speakers explained how Mrs. Indira Gandhi's and her Congress(R) Government's promises to the people made a year back on the eve of Parliamentary

elections have proved to be a hoax. So the speakers warned the audience against false promises of Mrs. Indira and her Congress(R) especially on the eve of the coming Assembly elections in different states and urged upon them to launch a mighty united left and democratic movement all over India against unemployment, retrenchment, high prices of essential commodities etc.

DSO Observes 17th Anniversary

Calcutta, January 31:

On the occasion of the Seventeenth Anniversary of All India Democratic Students' Organisation, a big meeting was held under the auspices of the West Bengal State Committee of D.S.O. at the University Institute Hall, Calcutta today in the afternoon.

The meeting was attended by large number of student representatives, belonging to D.S.O. from the various districts of West Bengal, such as, 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Midnapore, Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Darjeeling and West Dinajpur besides Calcutta. Some representatives from other states also attended the gathering to fraternise with the D.S.O. West Bengal unit on this auspicious occasion.

Com. Probhas Ghosh, the General Secretary, All India D.S.O. presided over the meeting. Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the General Secretary of the SUCI and an outstanding Marxist-Leninist thinker of the day graced the occasion as the main speaker and addressed the gathering mainly highlighting on the present political situation of

our country and the role of students to be played for advancing the cause of progressive democratic movement at this critical stage. His speech created great enthusiasm among the audience.

Besides a main resolution pinpointing the various problems confronting the educational field, the growing burden of taxation on the people, the increasing fascistic attacks launched by the Congress (R) to demolish the democratic atmosphere in the State and specially the attack on student organisations in different educational institutions by the Congress (R)—led Chatra Parishad. problem of unemployment etc., two other resolutions hailing the Bangladesh freedom struggle and the liberation struggle in Vietnam were unanimously adopted in the meeting.